

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

**DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES**

P.O. BOX 932328

SACRAMENTO, CA 94232-3280

**TITLE 13: DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES****NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**

The Department of Motor Vehicles (the department) proposes to adopt Section 159.10 in Chapter 1, Division 1, Article 3 of Title 13, California Code of Regulations, Window Decal for Vehicles with a Wheelchair Lift or Wheelchair Carrier.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

A public hearing regarding this proposed regulatory action is not scheduled. However, a public hearing will be held if any interested person or his or her duly authorized representative requests a public hearing to be held relevant to the proposed action by submitting a written request to the contact person identified in this notice no later than 5:00 P.M., fifteen (15) days prior to the close of the written comment period.

**DEADLINE FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS**

Any interested person or his or her duly authorized representative may submit written comments relevant to the proposed regulations to the contact person identified in this notice. All written comments must be received at the department no later than 5:00 P.M., FEBRUARY 7, 2005, the final day of the written comment period, in order for them to be considered by the department before it adopts the proposed regulation.

**AUTHORITY AND REFERENCE**

The department proposes to adopt this regulation under the authority granted by section 1651 and 5201 of the Vehicle Code in order to implement, interpret or make specific sections 1652 and 5201 of the Vehicle Code.

**INFORMATIVE DIGEST/POLICY STATEMENT OVERVIEW**

California Vehicle Code Section 5201 requires that license plates be clearly visible to law enforcement on a vehicle being driven on California's roads and highways. Assembly Bill 1303 (Ch. 626, 2003) amended Section 5201 to mandate the Department of Motor Vehicles to issue a decal for the purpose of identifying rear license plates that are being obstructed on vehicles equipped with a wheelchair lift or wheelchair carrier.

This proposed regulation will specify that a registered owner issued a valid disabled plate or placard or disabled veteran plate will be eligible to apply for the decal at no charge if the vehicle's license plate is being obstructed by a wheelchair lift or wheelchair carrier.

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

- Cost or Savings To Any State Agency: None.
- Other Non-Discretionary Cost or Savings to Local Agencies: None.
- Costs or Savings in Federal Funding to the State: None.
- Cost Impact on Representative Private Persons or Businesses: The decal will be issued at no charge. The department is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.
- Effect on Housing Costs: None.

## **DETERMINATIONS**

The department has made the following initial determinations concerning the proposed regulatory action:

- The proposed regulatory action will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting businesses, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states. The decal will be issued to a disabled individual or disabled veteran with a wheelchair lift or wheelchair carrier at no charge.
- The adoption of this regulation is not expected to create or eliminate jobs or businesses in the state of California or reduce or expand businesses currently doing business in the state of California.
- The proposed regulatory action will not impose a mandate on local agencies or school districts, or a mandate that requires reimbursement pursuant to part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of the Government Code.
- The proposed regulatory action will not affect small businesses. The decal will be issued to a disabled individual or disabled veteran with a wheelchair lift or wheelchair carrier at no charge.

## **PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS**

A pre-notice workshop, pursuant to Government Code section 11346.45, is not required because the issues addressed in the proposal are not so complex or large in number that they cannot easily be reviewed during the comment period.

## **ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

The department must determine that no reasonable alternative considered by the department or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of the department would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed, or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action.

## **CONTACT PERSON**

Inquiries relevant to the proposed action and questions on the substance of the proposed regulations should be directed to the department representative, Bonnie DeWatney, Department of Motor Vehicles, P.O. Box 932382, Mail Station E-244, Sacramento, California 94232-3820; telephone number (916) 657-8954, or [bdewatney@dmv.ca.gov](mailto:bdewatney@dmv.ca.gov). In the absence of the department representative, inquiries may be directed to the Regulations Coordinator, Deborah Baity, at (916) 657-5690 or [dbaity@dmv.ca.gov](mailto:dbaity@dmv.ca.gov). The fax number for the Regulations Branch is (916) 657-1204.

## **AVAILABILITY OF STATEMENT OF REASONS AND TEXT OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS**

The department has prepared an initial statement of reasons for the proposed action, and has available all the information upon which the proposal is based. The contact person identified in this notice shall make available to the public upon request the express terms of the proposed action using underline or italics to indicate additions to, and strikeouts to indicate deletions from the California Code of Regulations. The contact person identified in this notice shall also make available to the public, upon request, the final statement of reasons once it has been prepared and submitted to the Office of Administrative Law, and the location of public records, including reports, documentation and other materials related to the proposed action. In addition, the above-cited materials (Initial Statement of Reasons and Express Terms) may be accessed at [www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov), Other Services, Legal Affairs Division, Regulatory Actions Web Page.

#### **AVAILABILITY OF MODIFIED TEXT**

Following the written comment period and the hearing, if one is held, the department may adopt the proposed regulations substantially as described in this notice. If modifications are made which are sufficiently related to the originally proposed text, the full, modified text with changes clearly indicated would be made available to the public for at least 15 days prior to the date on which the department adopts the resulting regulations. Requests for copies of any modified regulations should be addressed to the department contact person identified in this notice. The department will accept written comments on the modified regulations for 15 days after the date on which they are first made available to the public.